



Barber Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Barber Wood
Location:	Coberley
Grid reference:	SO950158, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 163
Area:	39.04 hectares (96.47 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Lying just south of Cheltenham, Barber Wood is a mixture of young mixed broadleaf plantation and open limestone grassland with a rich and diverse population of species. Phased planting sees a young woodland developing at staggered ages. Fine views into the local rolling Cotswold landscape are offered. There are lots of different walking routes across the site taking in the woodland, grassland and stunning views across the Cotswold landscape.

2.2 Extended Description

Barber Wood is a 39 hectare site of young broadleaf woodland and open grassland. It straddles a large hill approximately 6 miles to the east of Gloucester and 4 miles south of Cheltenham, in the Parish of Coberley. It was purchased in association with The Countryside Commission and named after their former chairman, Lord Barber of Tewkesbury. The site lies within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is included within the National Character Area 107, 'Cotswolds'.

The site is a mixture of young (1990s) largely even-aged native broadleaf woodland, planted on former farmland with large areas of grassland. The grassland includes open improved and semi-improved grassland to the north (Cpt 1a and 3a), and smaller important areas of unimproved limestone grassland on the lower south facing slopes (Cpts 3b) known as Coldwell Bottom. Ullenwood - an ancient coppice woodland managed by The Cotswold Conservation Board forms the western boundary providing connectivity to the wider wooded landscape.

Several historic landscape features lie within the site, such as round clumps of mature parkland trees, or 'Roundels' (cpt 1a), dry-stone walls, lynchets, ancient hedgerows and old pollards. Old hedgerows provide good connectivity across the site and the southernmost boundary supports many veteran pollards.

Located between Gloucester and Cheltenham, the site is locally well used as public amenity, notably by dog walkers. The site is connected to the wider public right of way (PROW) network, including the Gloucestershire Way which passes through the site, and provides a starting point to explore the surrounding rural landscape. Within the site, a network of mainly permissive paths provides circular and linear routes, with one bridleway for horse access. The Cotswold AONB Volunteers undertake regular work parties on the site including control of invasive weeds and access projects.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Barber wood is located 6 miles to the east of Gloucester and 4 miles south of Cheltenham.

There is a formal parking area at the main entrance at the northern end of the site. This accommodates approximately 8 cars.

The public bus service number 852 currently (2007) stops at the Village stores on Roman Road in Birdlip which is 3.2km away. For more information on bus times please visit the Traveline website www.traveline.org.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

Barber Wood sits within a rural landscape that is well served with a PROW network. The Gloucestershire way goes through the site alongside a bridleway route. Within Barber there is a network of paths, mainly permissive providing circular and linear routes. All paths are grass surfaced and there are a number of steep and often muddy/slippery areas running up the slopes. Entrance points are served with 12' gates on the PROW and are either kissing gates (not disabled) or open paths at other entrances.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Welcoming Site Programme will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to this important site. An attractive, serviceable car park and network of well promoted paths will further encourage the appreciation of the site in the wider locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome; well-maintained car park, entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors potentially including those with mobility constraints and/or those with young children using off road pushchairs. Paths will also continue to provide more abled bodied visitors with access to the wider areas of the site. An engagement plan will set out a developed programme of engagement activities and events further enhancing people's visit to the site. Barber Wood will be a truly valued resource in the local community and well respected.

Areas of open grassland habitat with existing high conservation value and species diversity will be maintained and enhanced. This will be achieved through the implementation of a light grazing regime and supplemented by a programme of grassland cutting, scrub and invasive species control as appropriate. Areas of grassland with low conservation value will be allowed to succeed to woodland and/or be planted with native broadleaved trees, to provide increased successional woodland edge habitat and permanent woodland cover. The open grassland, successional scrub and woodland habitat will form a mosaic of high conservation value supporting a wider range of associated species, complementary with the surrounding Cotswold AONB landscape, and historic lynchet and roundel features.

Areas of secondary woodland will be managed through a Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) approach utilising regular selective thinning interventions to create and maintain an irregular woodland structure with a diverse range of native broadleaved species supporting the highest levels of biodiversity. Deadwood will be actively created and maintained. Sustainable deer populations will be maintained at levels enabling natural regeneration processes unimpeded by browsing. Open space will be maintained through a network of rides and small glades promoting transitional woodland habitat and associated species. Areas within cpt 1 will be allowed to succeed to woodland habitat supplemented through direct planting to increase the area and connectivity of permanent woodland habitat.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

The site is located between the relatively large towns of Gloucester (6 miles) and Cheltenham (4 miles); it is classified as an urban site according to the Woodland Trust's classification and is one of the more accessible sites for urban populations in the South West region. The sites main amenity attractions are the areas of open amenity grassland - notably lending themselves as picnic areas, with good views of the landscape from the hilltops; and general appeal of woodland cover. The site is very well used by local dog walkers including those running commercial activities. The site has good links with surrounding rural countryside and open space, and provides an accessible gateway to explore the local landscape.

Access/Infrastructure:

The site is highly accessible both through its small car park for approximately 8 cars adjacent to the A436 which joins Gloucester and Cheltenham, as well as being connected directly to the public rights of way. In total there are 10 entry points across the site, six of these pedestrian only, and 4 bridleway entry points are the PROW. From the car park there are a number of linear and circular pedestrian routes, although none of these are currently waymarked.

There is currently no signage directly off the fast-moving A436 advertising the location and ownership of the site. The car park is in need of an upgrade of both surface and appearance; and the infrastructure including gateways, signs, and fences need replacing, with little orientation or interpretation of the site. Likewise there is no waymarking other than formal PROW signage within the wider site. Parking areas need defining and due to the popularity of the site, cars often park on grassy areas or on banks to squeeze in. There is a fenced-off pen adjacent to the car park installed for dog walkers to use and collect dog waste at entry, which appears to have little usage and serves little purpose. A dog bin is provided by the local council.

From the main car park there is a well-defined circular walk in the large open grassland area. However, none of the access paths are surfaced, most being grass pathways, and some can be muddy in winter. Those traversing slopes can also find it slippy and the steeper slopes would benefit from re-profiling to promote pedestrian access.

There is a large amount of dilapidated 6ft height deer fencing surrounding the majority of the planted woodland areas, which is no longer serving a purpose.

General communication drivers:

The site is linked to the adjacent Ullenwood (managed by The Cotswold Conservation Board), and a local forest school operates in this woodland, with permissive use of the western section of Barber Wood given to the Forest School for games and activities only. The Gloucestershire Way, a long distance trail, also runs through the site. It is within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

AONB).

Events

There are currently no events organised by the Woodland Trust although the large area of open grassland would be an easily promotable area - the site is currently served by a small car park (8 cars) but there is scope to increase this. Occasional walks run by local wildlife groups have taken place in the recent past.

Welcome Sites

There are no records of visitor numbers for the site although this is likely limited by the small size of the current car park. There is scope to increase this through better parking provision.

WT volunteering:

There is one volunteer warden at the site, linked with Lineover Wood, but currently no site specific work party volunteers. Although there is a well-established work group at Lineover wood, 3 miles away who are involved in occasional wildlife surveys of Barber Wood - usually through other wildlife interest groups e.g. Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire Branch. However The Cotswold AONB Voluntary Wardens undertake work activities at the site, inc ragwort pulling, coppicing, access installation and dry-stone walling.

There could be scope for corporate volunteering given the proximity of Gloucester and Cheltenham but it is currently unknown whether existing corporate partners are present in these locations.

Schools

There is no known use by local schools, although it is likely this occurs informally. The site is very suitable for promoted use by schools and forest schools.

Wider community engagement

There are currently no known user groups.

Significance

The wood is superbly located between the towns of Gloucester and Cheltenham to offer an enhanced people engagement resource to better promote the work of the Woodland Trust. The site is located in an attractive rural setting with wonderful views of the wider mixed open and treed landscape for which the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is well known. The site is located directly off a major A road and has parking provision, which is rare for the sites within the South West region.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities & Constraints

Access/Infrastructure:

The size of the car park is currently a major limiting factor in terms of enabling wider access to the site. There is ample scope for expansion by incorporating an area of the existing fenced off pen; spaces should be demarcated to maximise provision.

Better orientation at the main entrance should seek to promote one main circular route within the site and also show key links with PROW notably the Gloucestershire Way. Main routes should be clearly waymarked for easy identification and accessibility.

Main promoted routes should be of a higher standard in terms of surface - in some areas this may result in minor surfacing/drainage works, elsewhere better profiling of slopes and re-seeding or surfacing will be required.

All Woodland Trust signage need replacing with appropriate up to date brand across the site reflecting the high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme.

The deer fence and gates should be removed to provide better access and aesthetics of the site now its main purposes (establishment of woodland) has been completed.

All site infrastructure should be in good serviceable repair.

Events:

Tree planting opportunities identified elsewhere in the plan could be used as major people engagement opportunities, including locals and potentially corporate partners.

Removing the main field (cpt 1a) from a grazing regime will significantly promote its amenity use and potential for events.

Appropriate brand moments could be delivered.

Volunteering:

Potential to link with Cotswold Wardens and AONB volunteers, WT volunteers at Lineover wood and/or to gauge local interest. There will be new opportunities for tree planting as well as maintenance of existing plantation, and for dry-stone walling works.

Schools/Wider Community engagement:

There is an opportunity to link in more with Gloucestershire Forest schools network (already using adjacent site), as well as potential to work with adjacent Ullenwood volunteers and close by Crickley Country Park.

Further opportunities may exist with the National Trust in the wider area.

Factors Causing Change

Increased number of visitors to site

Increase of desire lines notably through woodland areas (especially if deer fences removed)

Anti-social activity, notably flytipping

Increase in commercial dog walking to detriment of site (dog waste) and potential user conflict

Erosion of existing paths due to increased visitors

Potential user/dog conflict with grazing animals in cpts 3a and 3b

Potential local development including road and house building

Increased litter on site

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Welcoming Site Programme will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to this important site. An attractive, serviceable car park and network of well promoted paths will further encourage the appreciation of the site in the wider locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome; well-maintained car park, entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors potentially including those with mobility constraints and/or those with young children using off road pushchairs. Paths will also continue to provide more abled bodied visitors with access to the wider areas of the site. An engagement plan will set out a developed programme of engagement activities and events further enhancing people's visit to the site. Barber Wood will be a truly valued resource in the local community and well respected.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Increase the size of car parking provision and upgrade the surface to enable increased accessibility to the site.

Replace and upgrade all WT signage notably at the site entrance off the A346 to better promote the site's location.

Installation of orientation board in car park and promotion of internal circular route and linear links with PROW notably the Gloucestershire Way.

Installation of waymarkers on main promoted routes to increase accessibility.

Removal of deer fencing to increase accessibility and aesthetics of the site.

Upgrade paths and drainage where appropriate notably re-profiling paths traversing slopes.

Develop appropriate engagement plan to promote increased activities and events across the site.

Consider litter bins if can arrange regular collection supported by local councils.

Implement visitor number counter to inform future engagement plan.

5.2 Open Ground Habitat

Description

There are several large areas of open ground at Barber Wood (Cpt 1). The largest in size is sub cpt 1a, and alongside the smaller 3a, they consist of improved and semi-improved grassland managed by cutting. The most significant in terms of habitat is the lower south facing field - Cpt 3b, this is largely unimproved limestone grassland, currently managed by sheep grazing.

The grassland is varied (note grassland report by Avondale Ecology Aug 2017 in ref information): the southern slopes of compartment 1c are typical of species rich, unimproved calcareous grassland. Species of note include: yellow-wort, field scabious, horseshoe vetch, and knapweed; pyramidal, common spotted and fragrant orchids are also present on the southern slopes, and the rare Chalkhill blue butterfly is also present in good numbers.

Compartment 1a and the track edges are mostly typical improved or semi-improved neutral grassland with significantly lower biodiversity interest. Areas of 3a are also considered to be semi-improved with some areas of better species richness to the south. In both compartments infrequent patchy areas of floristic biodiversity contain yellow rattle, birds-foot trefoil, common knapweed, field scabious, and occasional orchids.

Ragwort is locally abundant, particularly within areas of the semi-improved grassland. This dates to when cows were kept in the site overwinter one year due to foot and mouth livestock health movement restrictions, which caused severe poaching and spreading of the ragwort seed. It is annually controlled.

The fields are separated from woodland blocks by the original deer fencing and old dry-stone walls run along the western boundary. Within the adjacent woodland blocks there are wide grassland rides which link up the areas of grassland with successional scrub developing, creating a more interesting habitat dynamic, although scrub encroachment within 3a and 3b may need to be controlled in order to protect the main grassland interest.

The main field to the north of the site (1a) also contains several historic planted 'roundels' with mixed broadleaf and conifer species dating back to the 1800s in places (when the site was part of the wider Ullenwood estate). To the south of the site on the unimproved grassland the site contains historic lynchets, earth terraces found on the side of a hill - a feature of ancient field systems of the British Isles.

Piped water is available within Cpts 1a and 3a, with a hand pump in 3a to pump water into a trough in Cpt 3b. The site has been historically grazed by both cattle and sheep, but this has been infrequent, except in patches where rabbits overgraze. The main conservation interest in Cpt 3b has generally been under grazed. Works were undertaken during 2017 and 2018 to repair the livestock fencing and water supplies in 3a and 3b, and grazing is undertaken by sheep from late-summer of 2018. Long-term, cattle will preferably graze the unimproved grassland.

A grassland survey was commissioned in 2017 to determine whether areas of potentially low biodiversity interest could be allowed to succeed to woodland and/or be planted. This concluded that track edges and less species-rich areas of Compartment 1a could be planted, and as the grassland at the northern end of Compartment 3a is not species-diverse, this could be allowed to develop into a scrub mosaic. Grasslands in Cpt 3b and the southern end of 3a should be prioritised and

maintained under favourable management to maximise species diversity by low density cattle grazing or cutting and removal of arisings from late July onwards, avoiding grazing or cutting from April to mid-July.

Significance

Unimproved grassland has evolved over centuries through low intensity traditional land use. This habitat, supporting a wide diversity of flora and fauna, is irreplaceable and rank grass encroachment and cessation of traditional management threatens this locally and nationally valuable ecosystem. Barber Wood is within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which identifies flower-rich limestone grasslands' as a 'special quality' of the Cotswolds as well as affording it Cotswold 'landscape character' status.

Opportunities & Constraints

To establish light grazing regime within the areas of high conservation interest to better protect and enhance habitat quality

Manage scrub development in 3a and 3b to remove threat of scrub encroachment

Allow low biodiversity value grassland areas to succeed to woodland and/or plant trees to facilitate creation of transitional habitat and increased woodland area (cpt 1a)

Allow other areas of grassland adjacent to woodland compartments to develop successional scrub to create and retain woodland edge habitat supporting associated species

Factors Causing Change

- Encroachment of ragwort, cocksfoot, thistle and other rank vegetation as well as bushy shrubs such as thorn will dominate if not managed
- Intensity and consistency of livestock grazing
- Intensity and consistency of uncontrolled rabbit grazing
- Uncontrolled scrub encroachment in 3a and 3b

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Areas of open grassland habitat with existing high conservation value and species diversity will be maintained and enhanced. This will be achieved through the implementation of a light grazing regime and supplemented by a programme of grassland cutting, scrub and invasive species control as appropriate. Areas of grassland with low conservation value will be allowed to succeed to woodland and/or be planted with native broadleaved trees, to provide increased successional woodland edge habitat and permanent woodland cover. The open grassland, successional scrub and woodland habitat will form a mosaic of high conservation value supporting a wider range of associated species, complementary with the surrounding Cotswold AONB landscape, and historic lynchet and roundel features.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Implement and manage light grazing regime within 3b and by grazing or cutting 3a to maintain and enhance grassland habitat.

Maintain programme of scrub control within 3b to maintain and enhance grassland habitat.

Allow areas of improved grassland and woodland edges to succeed to woodland naturally, assisted where appropriate by the planting of native broadleaved species to provide increased resilience (in terms of pests and diseases) as well as to assist the timescale of establishment and development of canopy (cpt 1a). Notably in cpt 1a this must take the need for a large area of open ground for public amenity and potential visitor engagement into account, as well as to maintain historic roundels.

A programme of annual ragwort control to be maintained notably in all cpt 1a.

5.3 Secondary Woodland

Description

Barber wood is mostly composed of largely even-aged blocks of mixed native broadleaved species plantation (Cpt 2a,b,c and d). Planting was mostly carried out in 1992 with some phased planting in 1996 (in 2b). Species are predominantly Ash and Beech with Birch, Field Maple, Whitebeam, Yew and Pedunculate oak, shrub species inc hawthorn, blackthorn, dog wood, guelder rose, spindle and hazel.

In areas of dense planting, canopy closure has occurred and woodland vegetation and flora is now developing.

Some of the areas are at pole stage, particularly towards the lower slopes, where there is now a woodland feel with a developing understory of hazel, ash and field maple as well as more common woodland flora. Higher up on the hilltop itself (2c and 2d) the trees have grown more slowly and are commonly stunted, with more scrub.

Wide strips of open ground have been left between and within planted blocks, with wide rides and scallops offering successional habitat from patches of wildflower grassland, developing scrub habitat, and shrub rich woodland edges.

The woodland blocks are all individually deer fenced, which also acts as livestock fencing for adjacent grassland areas, although the fence is no longer deer/stock proof in many places.

The 'Roundels' in cpt 1a contain mature parkland trees of beech, pine and horse chestnut, and one mature roundel in the north west woodland compartment 2a, and one in 2c contains mature trees now growing in woodland setting. Old hedgerows provide good connectivity across the site and the southernmost boundary supports many veteran pollards.

Ash dieback observed throughout woodland canopy in Summer 2018.

Significance

The creation of new native broadleaved woodland, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat, is a core objective of the Woodland Trust. The woodland provides a compliment to the local AONB landscape of rolling, well wooded down-land. The woodland also adjoins the neighbouring Ullenwood site, which has areas of historic coppice and ancient woodland and thus provides increased woodland connectivity in the landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Potential interventions within the stands to create increased diversity in structure and to begin to promote natural regeneration
Increase resilience in the face of ash dieback by promoting alternative broadleaved species.
Potential to facilitate the development of successional scrub adjacent to the woodland blocks by only grazing/cutting grassland areas of high conservation value.
Increasing long term permanent woodland canopy into cpt 1a through promotion of successional woodland and direct planting to increase area and connectivity of woodland habitat.
Remove largely redundant deer fencing to facilitate thinning interventions.
Creation of increased levels of deadwood during thinning interventions.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback and loss of canopy - likely to have a significant effect as stands tend to be dominated by ash, increase in tree safety hazards .
Damage from deer browsing and potentially prohibiting natural regeneration opportunities if deer fencing removed.
Increased anti-social behaviour notably fly tipping.
Increase of desire lines if deer fencing removed.
Squirrel damage notably on beech and oak - potentially increase as a result of thinning interventions.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Areas of secondary woodland will be managed through a Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) approach utilising regular selective thinning interventions to create and maintain an irregular woodland structure with a diverse range of native broadleaved species supporting the highest levels of biodiversity. Deadwood will be actively created and maintained. Sustainable deer populations will be maintained at levels enabling natural regeneration processes unimpeded by browsing. Open space will be maintained through a network of rides and small glades promoting transitional woodland habitat and associated species. Areas within cpt 1a will be allowed to succeed to woodland habitat supplemented through direct planting to increase the area and connectivity of permanent woodland habitat.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Selectively thin broadleaved areas (cpt 2a,b,c and d), removing approximately 20% basal area to open up canopy, create more light reaching the ground, diversify stand structure and provide natural regeneration opportunities to support habitat connectivity. Ash should be targeted for removal where it is suppressing other native broadleaves species, especially those likely to form long term canopy trees in the face of significant canopy loss from ash dieback.

A percentage of felled timber and crown wood should be retained on site to form deadwood habitat. Where appropriate ring barking should be used within difficult to reach areas. Where thinning is impractical due to access constraints, areas of woodland may be left to natural processes.

Coppice understory species at the same as above to actively promote regeneration.

Maintain deer fencing until year 2 and 5 of the plan and reassess based on the level of natural regeneration following thinning intervention. Where thinning is inappropriate due to access constraints, remove now redundant deer fencing.

Deer management may need to be implemented following the removal of deer fences but should be based on a completed deer impact assessment once the fence has been removed

Mow main rides adjacent to woodland blocks, but retain significant areas of scrub/vegetation to provide increased edge habitat.

Re-profile tracks traversing slopes to provide increased management access, consider surfacing key areas if required

Plant a minimum of 2Ha of cpt 1 at 2500sph with mixed native broadleaved species to increase area and connectivity of woodland habitat.

Where proposed planting area includes historic 'roundels' plantings, ensure established trees are not adversely affected by new plantings creating a small buffer zone and including use of shrub species to minimise long term landscape impact.

Remove any remaining tree guards and dispose of appropriately to comply with UKWAS.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	7.39	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Landscape factors, Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	Connecting People with woods & trees	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Improved and semi-improved grassland occupying the relatively flat north of the site close to the car park. NVC grassland classification is MG1 Arrhenatum elatius with Centurea nigra sub communities (common knapweed). The field has infrequent patchy areas containing higher floristic value including yellow rattle, birds-foot trefoil, common knapweed and field scabious, and occasional orchids. There are some large areas of ragwort to the east of the field, with occasional thistle present throughout the field. (note grassland report by Avondale Ecology Aug 2017 in ref information)

Six fenced-off landscape tree 'roundels' are found within the sub-compartment: two mature circular standing alone; two mature semi-circular against the north boundary; and two more recently planted. The trees within these roundels include beech, horse chestnut, sycamore, Norway maple and scots pine. They are remnant of the historic Ullenwood estate and reflect characteristics of the wider landscape. Good views of the Cotswold landscape are offered up towards the upper slopes of 1a.

Compartment 1a contains the formal car parking area and main entrance at the north tip of the site, with a separate dog entrance area adjoining the parking area, and also a tiny triangle of land with pylons and power lines, complete with notice boards and parish council board. Water trough next to car park. Right of way along west edge is a stony track that runs north to south originating in car park running alongside Cpt 2b to private land.

There are several mown permissive paths running through the sub compartment entering into the woodland areas at three gated points in the deer fencing that surrounds the woodland to the south. Post and wire fencing runs along the north boundary along the minor road. There is formal management vehicular access throughout 1a.

Scrub such as blackthorn is encroaching from the woodland and overcoming the grassland in places.

2a	4.25	Mixed native broadleaves	1992	High forest	Landscape factors, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	Connecting People with woods & trees	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Young plantation native broadleaf woodland planted in 1992. Fenced with deer fencing and gates, with mown path and rides leading to and around a mature tree roundel of sycamore and beech. (Formerly Cpt 1b). Species planted are Beech, Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Whitebeam, Yew and Pedunculate oak. Shrub species inc hawthorn, blackthorn, dog wood, guelder rose, spindle and hazel. Boundary with thick hazel coppice to south with areas of coppice in Ullen Wood, and forest school to west boundary with Ullen Wood. Forest school use south west corner.</p>							
2b	10.67	Mixed native broadleaves	1996	High forest	Landscape factors	Connecting People with woods & trees	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Young plantation native broadleaves occupying the slopes of Barber Wood fenced with deer and stock fencing, which is now old and requires on-going maintenance. (Formerly known as Cpts 1b and 1c). Permissive paths run throughout, with wide rides, scallops and open areas. Two unplanted and mown access routes from open ground through to top ride which runs east to west on a slope. Right of way along west edge is a stony track that runs north to south originating in car park running south to private land.</p>							
2c	5.83	Mixed native broadleaves	1992	High forest	Landscape factors	Connecting People with woods & trees	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Young plantation native broadleaf woodland planted in 1992. Fenced with deer fencing and gates. Species planted are Beech, Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Whitebeam, Yew and Pedunculate oak with other shrub species. Mature roundel at top of slope now part of woodland.</p>							
2d	2.59	Mixed native broadleaves	1992	High forest	Landscape factors	Connecting People with woods & trees	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Young plantation native broadleaf woodland planted in 1992. Slow to establish broadleaves trees and shrubs. Species planted are Beech, Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Whitebeam, Yew and Pedunculate oak with other shrub species. Some unprotected planted low shrubs along the south edge with large amounts of suckering blackthorn. Broad leaved helleborines can be found in this compartment.</p>							

3a	3.00	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Landscape factors, Management factors (eg grazing etc), People issues (+tve & -tve)	Connecting People with woods & trees	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Compartment 3a is made up of semi-improved limestone grassland. The west field (previously sub-compartment 3b) is more botanically interesting with an unimproved element to the south and semi-improved to the north. The eastern area (was cpt 3c) is tightly rabbit grazed grassland with a management track and public footpath running to the road to the north along the eastern edge. The areas are linked by a narrow corridor of fenced open grassland with a public right of way and bridleway running east to west through it, bordered by trees and shrubs to the north and south. The area occupies previous agricultural land which has been grazed sporadically for many years. Scrub is encroaching into some of the grassland from the surrounding woodland.</p> <p>There is a water trough and hand driven water pump in the west field which pumps water from Cpt 3a to Cpt 3b. Source of water is in Cpt 1a.</p>							
3b	5.30	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Landscape factors, Management factors (eg grazing etc), People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Compartment 3b contains unimproved and semi-improved grassland (previously 4b and 5a) running downslope from north to south down to Coldwell Bottom. NVC grassland classification CG2 *Festuca ovina* - *Avenula pratensis* grassland, with the *Holcus lanatus* - *Trifolium repens* sub-community, containing many wild orchids including pyramidal, common spotted and fragrant orchids, and the rare Chalkhill blue butterfly is also present, with occasional sightings of Adonis blue. Species richness improves towards the lowest, southern most portion of site (previously 5a) with a significant lynchet earthwork running across the slope. (note grassland report by Avondale Ecology Aug 2017 in ref information)

There are some unprotected planted low shrubs along the upper edge of the area, with scrub encroaching from the woodland. A species rich old hedgerow runs east to west along the southern boundary, containing mature and veteran pollards and standard trees.

There is water provision in the NW corner via a trough next to the dry-stone wall fed by a pressure driven hand pump in Cpt 3a.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	2a	Thin	4.25	16	70
2020	2b	Thin	10.67	16	170
2020	2c	Thin	5.83	16	95
2020	2d	Thin	2.59	16	42
2024	2a	Thin	4.25	16	70
2024	2b	Thin	10.67	16	170
2024	2c	Thin	5.83	16	95
2024	2d	Thin	2.59	16	42
2029	2a	Thin	4.25	16	70
2029	2b	Thin	10.67	16	170
2029	2c	Thin	5.83	16	95
2029	2d	Thin	2.59	16	42
2034	2a	Thin	4.25	16	70
2034	2b	Thin	10.67	16	170
2034	2c	Thin	5.83	16	95
2034	2d	Thin	2.59	16	42

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.